



NEWS RELEASE

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Sept. 22, 2014

Man Sentenced to Life in Prison for El Monte Rape, Assault

A 19-year-old man convicted of repeatedly raping a clerk at an El Monte convenience store was sentenced today to 100 years to life in state prison, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

On Aug. 22, a jury deliberated for less than two hours before finding Joseph Leo Amaya guilty of two counts of forcible rape, two counts of sexual penetration by foreign object and one count of assault with intent to commit a felony in case KA103513. Jurors also found true a special allegation of aggravated kidnapping.

Deputy District Attorney Cynthia Valenzuela said on Oct. 19, 2013, the female victim was working at a minimart when Amaya approached her and tried to obtain her phone number. Unsuccessful at retrieving her information, Amaya left the store.

Amaya returned hours later while the victim was getting ready to close the store, the prosecutor said. As the victim attempted to lock the doors, Amaya forced his way inside the store.

The defendant then barricaded the store entrance, dragged the victim by her hair to the back of the store and repeatedly sexually assaulted her, the prosecutor said.

After the assault, the defendant left the minimart and the victim called law enforcement.

With the help of tips from the community, authorities were able to identify Amaya as the assailant and he was arrested a week later. At the trial, surveillance video and audio, as well as DNA evidence linked the defendant to the crime.

The case was investigated by the El Monte Police Department.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.